What is Claimed:

1. A method of preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of connectionless datagrams are received for queuing to a port number on the server, comprising:

   determining, in response to the arrival of a datagram from a host for a port number on the server, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port number from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and, if so,

   discarding the datagram.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining if the number of datagrams already queued to the port number from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold further comprises:

   calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of available queue slots for the port number.

3. Apparatus for preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of datagrams are received for queuing to a port number on the server, comprising:

4   means for determining, in response to a datagram from a

5   host for a port number on the server, if the number of

6   datagrams queued on the port by the host exceeds a prescribed

7   threshold, and

8   means responsive to the determining means for discarding

9   the datagram.

1   4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the means for determining

2   if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the

3   host exceeds a prescribed threshold further comprises:

4   means for calculating the prescribed threshold by

5   multiplying a percentage P by the number of available queue

6   slots for the port number.

1   5.   A storage media containing program code segments for

2   preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a

3   large number of datagrams are received for queuing to a port

4   number on the server, comprising:

5   a first code segment activated in response to a datagram

6   from a host for a port number on the server for determining if

7   the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the

8   host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

9   a second code segment responsive to the first code

10 segment for discarding the datagram.

1 6. The storage media of claim 5 wherein the first code
2 segment further comprises:

3   a third code segment for calculating the prescribed
4 threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of
5 available queue slots for the port number.

1 7. A carrier wave containing program code segments for
2 preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a
3 large number of datagrams are received for queuing to a port
4 number on the server, comprising:

5   a first code segment activated in response to a datagram
6 from a host for queuing to a port number on the server for
7 determining if the number of datagrams already queued to the
8 port from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

9   a second code segment responsive to the first code
10 segment for discarding the datagram.

1 8. The carrier wave of claim 7 wherein the first code segment
2 further comprises:

3   a third code segment for calculating the prescribed
4 threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of

5   available queue slots for the port number.